

**ILLINOIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO
THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
MEETING MINUTES**

November 18, 2016

The Illinois Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Committee) convened via conference call to discuss panel categories and a location and date for the public hearing on voting rights. Juan Carlos Linares chaired the meeting according to the agenda items identified. The DFO performed a roll call of committee members present. The meeting was open to the public and took place from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM CDT.

State Advisory Committee Members:

Present:

1. Juan Carlos Linares (Chair)
2. Joanna Bohdziewicz-Borowiec
3. Sweta Shah
4. Kendric Cobb
5. Bryant Jackson-Green
6. Reyahd Kazmi
7. Malik Nevels

Absent:

1. Johnathan Bean
2. Cindy Buys
3. Evelyn Rodriguez
4. Anne Wortham
5. Tabassum Haleem
6. James Botana
7. Trevor Copeland
8. Richard Garcia
9. William Howard

Commission Staff present:

- Melissa Wojnaroski (DFO)
- Victoria Moreno, USCCR intern
- Olivia Wilks, USCCR intern

Members of the Public present:

- None identified

Meeting Notes/Decisions Made:

Approval of Minutes

- Joanna Bohdziewicz-Borowiec moved to approve the Committee's meeting minutes as drafted from October 14, 2016, correcting for one typographical error.
- Bryant Jackson-Green seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote

Review of Panel Categories for Voting Rights Public Hearing

1. The Committee reviewed the list of potential panelists and discussed the panel categories for their public hearing on voting rights in the state (attached).
2. Discussion on Panel Categories
 - a. In addition to the panelists provided, the Committee discussed adding the following individuals to the list of potential panelists:
 - i. the lead sponsor of the automatic voter registration bill, Rep. Robyn Gabel and co-sponsor, Sen. Daniel Biss

- ii. the Chicago Votes organization
 - iii. poll workers
 - iv. Several committee members named professors and attorneys they know personally who might bring a valuable voice to the hearing, such as Michael Casper
- 3. Approval of Panel Categories
 - a. Reyahd Kazmi moved to approve the following panel categories to guide the panel organization during the Committee's public hearing
 - i. Academic, Community Advocacy, Government, and Legal/Policy Advocacy
 - b. Joanna Bohdziewicz-Borowiec seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote
- 4. Approval of Public Hearing Date
 - a. Malik Nevels moved to approve March 16, 2017 as the date for the public hearing
 - b. Sweta Shah seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote
- 5. Public Hearing Location
 - a. The Committee expressed interest in hosting two public hearings; one in Chicago and one in the Central/Southern part of the state. If costs do not allow for two hearings, the Committee will hold one hearing in Chicago.
 - i. USCCR staff will seek budgetary approval for two in-person hearings if the number of panelists necessary exceeds that which may be heard in one day.
 - ii. The Committee may host a web-based hearing for additional testimony if necessary.
 - b. Reyahd Kazmi moved to approve the Ralph A. Metcalfe Federal Building in downtown Chicago as the location for the 2017 public hearing on voting rights.
 - i. Kendric Cobb seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote
 - ii. USCCR staff will seek alternative spaces for Committee consideration if the Metcalfe Federal Building conference space is unavailable

Next Meeting

- The Committee will meet next in December 2016. Committee members should come prepared to discuss specific individuals the committee wants to contact and invite to the hearing

Open Comment

At the conclusion of the meeting, public lines were opened for comment. No public comment was received.

Next meeting

Mid-December 2016, TBA

Meeting Adjourned

1:00 PM CDT